

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI:  
 SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-  
 WARI:  
 SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR,  
 PATEL:  
 SHRI R. SURENDERREDDY:  
 SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH  
 HOODA:  
 KUMARAI UMA BHARATI:  
 SHRI BARE LAL JATAV:  
 SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:  
 SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:  
 SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:  
 SHRI NARAIN SINGH  
 CHAUDHARY:  
 SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:  
 SHRI BRAHMANAND MAN-  
 DAL:  
 SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH  
 MALIK:  
 SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH  
 YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is exporting wheat and also propose to import the same;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor:

(c) the quantity of wheat proposed to be imported during the current year and during each of the next two years, countrywise;

(d) whether the rates of the wheat proposed to be imported are much higher than that of the wheat proposed to be exported;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the rates in dollar terms; separately; and

(f) the amount of foreign exchange involved in the important deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c). The decision to export

wheat was taken at a time when the stocks of wheat in the Central Pool were higher than the stocks required to be maintained under the buffer stocking policy, in order to earn the much needed foreign exchange. Subsequently, keeping in view the lower procurement and increased demand for PDS, it was decided to restrict these exports. The Government have recently decided to import one million tonnes of wheat during 1992 with a view to increase its availability and to contain market prices. No contracts for import have, however, been signed so far. There is not proposal at present to import wheat during next two years.

(d) to (f). Price of the imported wheat and the foreign exchange involved will be known only after finalisation of contracts.

[English]

#### Production of Wheat

2331. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the production of wheat in the country in 1991;

(b) the stocks of wheat in central godowns as on April 1, 1991;

(c) the procurement of wheat out of 1991 Crop; and

(d) the quantity of wheat distributed through Fair-Price shops during 1989, 1990 and 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The production of wheat in the country during 1990-91 production year (July-June) has been estimated at 545.22 lakh tonnes.

(b) The stocks of wheat in Central Pool as on April 1, 1991 were 56.45 lakhs tonnes.

(c) The procurement of wheat during 1991-92 marketing season (April-march) as on 28.2.1992 has been 77.52 lakh tonnes.

(d) A quantity of 70.95 lakh tonnes, 64.52 lakh tonnes and 89.06 lakh tonnes of wheat was distributed from the Central Pool for Public Distribution system during 1989, 1990 and 1991 respectively.

[Translation]

### Fixing of Margin on Supply of Foodgrains

2332. SHRI ARVIND NETAM:  
SHRI SATYNARAYAN  
JATIYA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of margin fixed by the Union Government on supply of foodgrains to States on concessional rates for tribal areas;

(b) whether several States have demanded increase in this margin;

(c) if so, the action taken so far in this regard;

(d) whether the amount of margin fixed by the Union Government is less than the actual expenditure incurred by the State Governments; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Union Government to make up the losses being incurred by the Food and Supply departments of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN

GOGOI): (a) Rs. 25.00 per quintal.

(b) to (d). Yes, Sir, some States have conveyed that the margin allowed is inadequate and does not fully cover their actual transport and distribution charges etc.

(e) In cases where the margin is regarded as inadequate, the balance is to be borne by the States themselves as part of their own contribution towards the welfare of the tribal population.

### Oil Slick in Bay of Bengal

2333. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-  
DAL:  
SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS:  
DR. ASIM BALA  
SHRI AJOY MUKHO-  
PADHYAY:  
SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-  
TACHRAYA  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA.  
SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM  
CHANDRASEKHAR:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an oil slick is threatening animal and plant life in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) whether the slick is also threatening the mangrove forests in Sunderbans,

(c) if so, how this slick has occurred, and

(d) the steps being taken to counteract this situation before this slick moves towards the land in Sunderbans forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). An oil slick was sighted in the Bay of Bengal in the territorial waters of Bangladesh about 40